



DRAFT Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Sept. 26, 2008 McCloskey Conference Room 135, City Hall

Technical Advisory Committee minutes are transcribed in a summarized outline manner. Audio recordings are on file with the City of Bloomington Planning Department.

Attendance

Technical Advisory Committee: Lisa Ridge (Monroe Co. Highway), Emmanuel Nsonwu (INDOT), Lew May (Bloomington Transit), Jim Ude (INDOT), Jason Eakin (Monroe Co. Planning), Jewel Echelbarger (Rural Transit), Dave Williams (Bloomington Parks), Russ Goodman (Bloomington ITS), Andrea Roberts (Bloomington Public Works), Adrian Reid (Bloomington Engineering), and Jane Fleig (Bloomington Utilities).

Others: Joyce Williams (Bloomington Engineering), Josh Desmond (MPO Staff), Raymond Hess (MPO Staff), Scott Robinson (MPO Staff), Jane Weiser (Bloomington Planning Staff) and J.P. Avila (Bloomington Planning Intern).

I. Call to Order

Adrian Reid called the meeting to order

II. Approval of Minutes:

A. August 22, 2008 – Jane Fleig moved approval of the minutes. Jim Ude seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

III. Communications from the Chair

There were no communications from the chair.

IV. Reports from Officers and/or Committees

A. Updates on MPO related projects

Mr. Reid noted that the intersection of 17th and Fee Lane is now open. Construction work continues at Country Club and Rogers. Lisa Ridge reported that the County's project for Smith and Rogers will be bid in December and the 1st St. bridge is open. Jim Ude noted the SR 48 at SR 37 job is expected to be finished this season. Lew May reported that the Transit Development Program Study is underway. The second public charette will be held on Oct. 2nd. BT will need a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment to program a grant they received for hybrid buses. Mr. Reid announced Engineering has purchased a two part webinar on Context Sensitive Solutions. The sessions will take place on Wed. Oct. 15. and Nov. 18.

V. Reports from the MPO Staff

Mr. Hess reviewed actions taken by the Policy Committee at the last meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Complete Streets

Mr. Hess stated staff, with direction from the Citizens Advisory Committee, created a policy-oriented draft. When a project is submitted by a local public agency (LPA) to be programmed in the TIP, the LPA must demonstrate that they have engaged stakeholders to ensure the community's needs are being met. After the last two sections of the draft policy were

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distributed to the TAC, Scott Robinson noted that the CAC has recommended adoption of the policy. He explained the process including the annual call for projects, the LPA's submittal of a Project Announcement and the project's review by the CAC, TAC and PC. There is the possibility for the Policy Committee to issue a Stop Work Order if a project is not meeting the goals of the Complete Streets Policy. However, this can be avoided if the LPA engages the MPO throughout project development. In response to a question from Mr. Reid, Mr. Hess said INDOT is probably exempt from this policy. Mr. Nsonwu suggested that if all Indiana MPOs adopted the same Complete Streets policy, INDOT might be more willing to adhere to such a policy. Mr. Nsonwu also suggested the policy might increase project costs. Mr. Hess said that would have to be taken into consideration but costs might not go up in all cases. This policy won't make all projects have the same elements but rather formalizes a policy which engages the stakeholders. Mr. Reid said he has quite a few issues with the policy and would like some more time to respond to the policy. He suggested clarification of terminology "context of the community." He also stated the addition of certain amenities could require more right-of-way and added cost. Mr. Reid was concerned about having a steering committee for all projects. Jason Eakin said the section on exceptions may alleviate some of the concerns raised. Joyce Williams said it seems the policy is intended for STP projects but is written as if it is for any project using federal funds. This may be problematic for projects using other funding sources like HSIP. Mr. Robinson said the process would allow adding stakeholders if they are not included in the original project submittal. Jewel Echelbarger said she didn't think the elderly were being recruited for review committees. Mr. Reid suggested that emergency services and the business community should be added. Mr. Robinson said staff would like to present the policy to the Policy Committee in November and again in January for a vote.

VII. New Business

A. Railroad Crossing

Joyce Williams said that the Engineering Department has been working on a railroad crossing at Basswood and 3rd St. The Railroad agreed to this crossing but would not grant any more crossings in Monroe County. Josh Desmond suggested a subcommittee be formed to discuss potential crossings in the county. Lisa Ridge indicated Monroe County maintained a rail crossing inventory. Mr. Reid said Engineering would like the study done as soon as possible. Mr. Hess asked committee members to contact him if they would like to be on the subcommittee.

B. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Call for Projects / Application Q & A

Mr. Hess noted that the HSIP call for projects went out. The deadline is Nov. 3, 2008. There were no further questions from the Committee.

C. CY 2009 Meeting Schedule

There was discussion about changing the TAC meetings to a different day and time starting in January 2009. Consensus was reached that the TAC meeting at 10:00 on Wednesdays.

VIII. Communications from Committee Members (*non-agenda items*)

A. Topic Suggestions for future agendas



AGENDA ITEM II.A.

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IX. Upcoming Meetings

- A. Citizens Advisory Committee – October 22, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)**
- B. Technical Advisory Committee – October 24, 2008 at 1:30pm (McCloskey Room)**
- C. Policy Committee – November 14, 2008 at 1:30pm (McCloskey Room)**

Adjournment

These minutes were _____ by the Technical Advisory Committee at their regular meeting held on October 24, 2008 (RCH 10/24/2008).